mercialisation of its research and development activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ICAR has decided to raise funds from open Market to finance its research and development schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme has not been finalised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

National Calamity Relief Fund

539. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the National Calamity Relief Fund for the States, in view of the rise in the rates of rural wages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the IX Finance Commission, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State with an allocated amount for undertaking relief operations in the wake of natural calamities. An amount of Rs. 804.00 crores has been allocated to States in the C.R.F. with Central contribution of Rs. 603.00 crores and States contribution of Rs. 201.00 crores. The X Finance Commission is reviewing the operation of the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure including CRF. The recommendations of the X Finance Commission will come into effect from 1.4.1995.

Wastage of mangoes in Andhra Pradesh

540. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one third of mango producion in Andhra Pradesh a wasted due to lack of storage facilities;

(b) if so, what is the annual amount of loss due to this; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to overcome this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that one third of Mango production in Andhra Pradesh is wasted due to lack of storage facilities. However, as per State Government's estimates only 5 per cent produce is wasted amounting for about Rs. 12 crore.

(c) The State Government has proposed 10 cold storages in the Department of Marketing, out of which 5 are coming up in Vijayawada which is a major mango growing belt in Andhra Pradesh and 5 are proposed at Hyderabad. Besides, National Horticulture Board from Government of India is also implementing a scheme on Post-harvest Management on Fruits under which assistance is provided for grading/packing Centres, retail outlets, short duration coal stores, transport vehicles and rigid plastic crates which helps in reducing post-harvest losses in fruits including mango.